

Costa Rica and the Galápagos. It was visited by H.M.S. 'Sulphur' in 1840, when a single example of a peculiar Cuckoo (*Coccyzus ferrugineus*) was obtained. The island is volcanic, rising to 1700 feet in elevation, and covered with the densest forest. The naturalists of the U.S. Fish-Commission S.S. 'Albatross,' in 1891, procured examples of six species of birds on it, which are here described. *Cocornis agassizi* is a new genus and species allied to *Cactornis* of the Galápagos; and *Nesotriccus ridgwayi* is a new form of Tyrannidæ, allied to *Eribates magnirostris* of the same islands. *Dendræca aureola* is not distinguishable from examples of the same species from the Galápagos. Two specimens of *Coccyzus ferrugineus* were procured.

On Malpelo Island, an inaccessible volcanic islet in lat. $3^{\circ} 59' 7''$ N. and long. $81^{\circ} 34' 27''$ W., four specimens of the rare Gull *Creagrus furcatus* [*Xema furcata*] were shot during the short stay of the expedition on March 3rd, and others were seen on the rocks.

Examples of five species of Petrels were obtained at sea, among which were specimens of the rare *Halocyptena microsoma*.

XXV.—Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.

WE have received the following letters, addressed "to the Editors":—

SIRS,—I think it only right to mention that a perfectly clear understanding existed between those few ornithologists who advocated and those who undertook the English translation of Herr Gätke's volume; the understanding being that it was, as far as possible, "to be Gätke and nothing but Gätke."

I am,

Yours &c.,

J. A. HARVIE-BROWN.

Dunipace, Larbert, Stirlingshire, N.B.,
Jan. 12th, 1896.

SIRS,—It may be worth while to record the occurrence of a second species of Thicknee (*Ædicnemus senegalensis*) in Egypt, which has not been noticed by Capt. Shelley. On the 11th of February, 1891, on one of the islands of the First Cataract at Assouan, I shot, as it rose from some rocks close to me, a bird which was easily distinguishable from *Æ. scolopax*,—a common bird throughout Egypt—by its prevailing tint of grey, instead of brown, and by its lighter shade. The irides, of which I made a sketch at the time, were bluish black, becoming yellow only at the inner margin; the bill, thicker than that of *Æ. scolopax*, was black, except at the base on each side of the middle line, where it was lemon-yellow; the lower mandible black to the extreme base, where it was faintly yellow; legs pale bluish grey. The skin was kindly named for me on my return to England.

I feel that I ought to apologize for shooting this specimen, though I believe it adds a new species to the Egyptian list, in which it is not included by Capt. Shelley. My excuse is that, in spite of much temptation, this was the only ornithological toll which I took on that day.

Few visitors to Egypt know the beauty of these many islands of the First Cataract. Their freshness and their flowers and birds form a most pleasant contrast to the well-trodden sandy bank of the Nile.

I am,

Yours &c.,

2 Manchester Square, London, W.

F. D. DRUITT, M.D.

Jan. 31st, 1896.

SIRS,—Count Salvadori's very interesting note on *Anas erythrophthalmus*, Wied, in the last number of 'The Ibis' (p. 99), makes the position of the species quite clear, and it only remains to determine whether *Nyroca brunnea* of South Africa and *N. nationi* of Western South America can be distinguished from it and from one another. The examination of fresh specimens can alone settle this point. But my object in writing to you is to show that Count Salvadori has not quite accurately described my first introduction to *Anas*

erythrophthalmus in the Wied Collection in New York. He says that I examined the *two* type-specimens in New York, but on referring to my note (*Ibis*, 1874, p. 319) it will be seen that I speak of having found the female only. Had I seen the male, the difference between it and *Metopiana peposaca* would have been as apparent to me as it subsequently was to Mr. Allen.

I take this opportunity to refer to another small point in the last number of 'The Ibis.' On page 156 you make me responsible for the name *Bulweria bulweri*. This particular combination of generic and specific names is more than half a century old; it was made by Bonaparte in 1842, and has been endorsed by all recent American writers and by Seebohm. If you reject the specific name *bulweri* on account of its similarity to the generic name *Bulweria*, you will have to accept Heincken's name *anginho* as the specific title of Bulwer's Petrel. I never use such combinations as *Pica pica* and the like, but *Bulweria bulweri* does not offend my ears. In reference to the date of plate 65 of Jardine and Selby's 'Illustrations of Ornithology,' where Bulwer's Petrel is first described, I may add that Mr. Sherborn gives it (*Ibis*, 1894, p. 326) as not later than Nov. 1828.

I am,

Yours &c.,

OSBERT SALVIN.

10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square,
Feb. 14th, 1896.

SIRS,—From the editorial note entitled 'Rare Birds at Madras,' in the last number of 'The Ibis,' pp. 155, 156, it might be inferred that *Phalaropus hyperboreus* has never been obtained in India since the appearance of Jerdon's 'Birds,' vol. iii. (1864), wherein occurs the paragraph quoted to the effect that "a single instance is on record of the occurrence of this bird in India."

The Red-necked Phalarope is, however, by no means particularly rare on the Indian coast, as Mr. Hume has shown. The bird is frequently referred to in the pages

of 'Stray Feathers,' and an extract from vol. vii., p. 150 (1878), will afford trustworthy information as to the distribution of the species.

Mr. Hume writes:—"Except at times of passage, they [examples of *P. hyperboreus*] are never met with inland in India. I have now received numerous specimens from Karachi, the Gulf of Oman, and the Persian Gulf, and they occur also off the west coast of the Peninsula, though sparingly, all the way to Ceylon, and up the east coast to Madras, where my friend Dr. Ludovic Stewart obtained the first specimen, and where I have since found that, at times during the cold season, they are almost common in the bazaar."

To this I may add that off the Makrau (or Baluchistan) coast, and probably wherever they occur in the Indian Ocean, these birds are usually found in the daytime in flocks, resting on the sea, frequently several miles from land, and I have seen what was probably the same species under similar conditions near Aden.

The other "rare bird," the Oyster-catcher, though doubtless rare at Madras, where the sandy shore, without a rock for hundreds of miles, is not suited to the bird's habits, is by no means uncommon on parts of the Indian coast.

W. T. BLANFORD.

Feb. 25th, 1896.

SIRS,—In the January number of 'The Ibis' (p. 151), you have remarked upon the late appearance of the 'Record of Ornithological Literature' for 1890. I beg leave to observe that the blame for this delay does not rest with me, but wholly and solely with the editor of the 'Archiv.' It happens in this way: that it is the yearly volume for 1891 of the 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte,' in which the Ornithological Record for 1890, as well as that of the literature of other classes of animals for the same year, is published. My Records for the years 1891 and 1892 are complete, and have been already a long time in MS., and those of the literature of the years 1894 and 1895 have been actually published

in the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte.' The delay in the publication of the Record in the 'Archiv für Naturgeschichte' was one of the inducements that led me to undertake the publication of the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte.' This Monatsbericht contains a review of the whole ornithological literature of the year, arranged in order, and thus supplies the earliest possible account of the publications of every year.

I am,

Yours &c.,

Berlin.

A. REICHENOW.

The Sun-birds of Ruwenzori.—In Mr. Scott Elliot's 'Naturalist in Mid-Africa,' two Sun-birds are mentioned as met with high up on Mount Ruwenzori—*Nectarinia kilimensis* and *N. johnstoni*. In the small collection of birds (of some 30 skins) presented by Mr. Scott Elliot to the British Museum are two examples of *Nectarinia kilimensis*, which was originally described in 1884 by Captain Shelley from specimens obtained by Sir H. H. Johnston on Kilimanjaro. Other examples in the National Collection were procured by Mr. H. C. V. Hunter on Kilimanjaro. There are no specimens of *N. johnstoni* in Mr. Scott Elliot's collection, but the species is quite likely to occur on Ruwenzori, as it was found by Dr. Gregory on Mount Kenia (Sharpe, Bull. B. O. C. iii. p. ix), although originally discovered on Kilimanjaro.

Turnix sylvatica in Sicily.—Mr. J. I. S. Whitaker, of Palermo, has sent us the following interesting, but saddening, communication:—

"I regret to say that the Hemipode, once so plentiful in Sicily, must now be looked upon as a *rara avis* here, and I only hope I may be mistaken in thinking that it will, at no distant date, be totally extinct in this island.

"Professor Doderlein, writing of *Turnix sylvatica* in 1871 ('Avifauna del Modenese e della Sicilia,' p. 168), reported the species as plentiful in Sicily at that time, he

himself having often killed as many as ten to fifteen of these birds in a day in the southern and south-western districts of the island.

“I myself remember this bird fairly plentiful in the above districts so recently as the year 1880, its favourite haunts being the so-called ‘sciarre,’ or tracts of uncultivated moorland, which extend for many miles along the south coast of Sicily, running parallel with it, but lying a little way inland. Here, among the clumps of dwarf broom-palm and other scrub vegetation, one might have been sure of meeting with *Turnix sylvatica*, and, with a good dog and decent luck, of making a fair bag. A friend of mine, one day when riding over the moorland near Mazzara, rescued one of these birds from the clutches of a Hawk that had just seized it. In those days one might often have seen the Hemipode in a cage hung on the wall of a peasant’s cottage. During the last 15 years or so, however, the species has gradually, but steadily been decreasing in numbers, and I have not seen a single specimen in the flesh since the year 1891, when two or three were sent me from Campobello, near Mazzara. Indeed, for the past two years I have been endeavouring to procure another specimen, without success, nor can I hear of any having been obtained during this period anywhere in the island. This leads me to fear that the Hemipode, following in the steps of the Francolin, will, unfortunately, ere long be a thing of the past in Sicily. The reason for this is probably to be looked for in the fact of the greatly diminished area of country adapted to the requirements of this species, much of the former waste land in Sicily having been reclaimed of late years. The want of efficient protective game-laws may perhaps also be partly to blame, although not, I think, to any great extent, for the ‘Quaglia tridattile,’ or ‘Quaglia triugni,’ as it is called here, has never been held in great esteem by the Sicilians, either as a bird for the table or as affording much sport, and has consequently escaped persecution on the part of the native gunner and fowler.”

The Seebohm Collection.—The Seebohm collection of birds,

now transferred to the British Museum, is found to consist of about 16,950 specimens, including 235 skeletons. It is one of the most important that the Museum has ever received, being particularly rich in species of the Palæarctic region, which were not so well represented in the Museum as those of most other parts of the world. It comprises a series of almost every species of the Phasianidæ known to science, including many rare and costly specimens; while as regards the Thrushes, on a monograph of which Seebohm was engaged at the time of his death, the collection is probably the finest in the world. Of the Wading-birds (Plovers and Snipes) Seebohm had already presented many hundreds of specimens, but the 1440 skins which remained in his possession at his death formed the pick of his collection and the material upon which he founded his work on the Geographical Distribution of the Charadriidæ. Besides the many types contained in the collection, and the large series from localities whence the Museum had not hitherto had the opportunity of obtaining specimens, there are also many historical collections, such as Swinhoe's from China, Pryer's from Japan, Anderson's from India, a nearly perfect set of the birds of Mount Kina-balu, Borneo, and the valuable series obtained by Seebohm himself in the valleys of the Petrhora and the Yenesci. The collection of skeletons is also one of great importance, as the Museum collection was previously quite insufficient for the scientific study of these objects.

From an article contributed to 'Nature' (Feb. 20th, 1896) on this subject by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, we extract the following particulars:—

“A few years ago Mr. Seebohm presented to the Museum his collection of eggs, and, with this as a basis for the work, the entire series of oological specimens in the Museum was set in order and arranged under his own supervision by my daughter, Emily Mary Sharpe, till it was found that, with the Hume and Salvin-Godman collections, the British Museum could boast of a series of 48,000 eggs of birds.

“In the same generous spirit, he freely gave the type-specimens of any birds he possessed, that the value of the

'Catalogue of Birds' might be enhanced thereby; and now, by leaving the contents of his museum to the nation, he has enriched the British Museum with several invaluable additions to its ornithological collection.

"Thus are added—the Swinhoe collection of Chinese birds, the Pryer collection of Japanese birds, the series of specimens obtained by Holst in the Bonin and Loo-choo Islands and Formosa; and last, but not least, Seebohm's own European and Siberian collections, the result of his travels in all parts of Europe, and of his expeditions to the valleys of the Petchora and the Yenesei. Of his collection of Charadriidæ, he had already presented hundreds of specimens to the Museum, but by his bequest is added the portion which formed his special series of the Plovers and Snipes, on which, indeed, was founded his great work on the geographical distribution of the Charadriidæ. He had, moreover, in contemplation a 'Monograph of the Turdidæ, or Family of Thrushes,' and in pursuance of this object he had amassed a large collection of Thrushes, which now passes into the ornithological collection of the British Museum. Nests and skeletons of birds are in plenty, and a set of the Layard collection of Oceanic birds and others from the Whitehead expedition to Kira-balu, the Prjevalski and Severtzov expeditions in Central Asia, make up one of the most important donations which the Trustees of the British Museum have ever received. Seebohm's series of skins of the Phasianidæ is one of the finest in the world, and the value of the osteological collection cannot be over-estimated, as it formed the material on which were founded his many essays on the 'Classification of Birds.'"

The Ameghino Collection of Fossil Birds.—We are much pleased to be able to announce that the entire collection of fossil bird-bones of Señor Florentino Ameghino, of Buenos Ayres, described in his article 'Sur les Oiseaux fossiles de Patagonie' (Bol. Ist. Geogr. Arg. vol. xv.), has been acquired by the British Museum. Mr. C. W. Andrews, of the Geological Department, is now engaged in unpacking and

arranging it. It includes the wonderful head of *Phororhacos inflatus* and still more wonderful jaw of *P. longissimus*, which have been described and figured by Señor Ameghino, and have been referred to by Mr. Lydekker and Mr. Andrews in their articles in this Journal (Ibis, 1893, p. 40, and 1896, p. 1).

Ornithology in New Zealand.—It is satisfactory to learn that in New Zealand, a colony which has always taken a foremost place in matters of science, the general preference for ornithological study does not diminish. The remarkable character of the Ornis, and its intrinsic interest, may in some measure account for this. We notice with pleasure that the Legislature, in its recent session, passed a Bill protecting the fine Wood-Pigeon (*Carpophaga novæ-zealandiæ*) during the whole of 1896, with the proviso that every *sixth* year shall be a strictly close season, under severe penalties, for this valuable bird. This protection is a very wise step on the part of the colony, seeing how much scarcer the Wood-Pigeon has become, owing to wholesale slaughter, during the last few years. Steps are also being taken by the Colonial Government to protect the various birds on the outlying islands from the indiscriminate depredations of natural-history collectors. A further sign of the increasing interest in the subject is the active demand for chance copies of Buller's 'Birds of New Zealand.' A copy of the second edition, now long out of print, realized £20 at Wanganui, and, more recently, a copy was bought for £21 at an auction sale in Christchurch. Advertisements are frequently to be seen in the colonial papers from persons desiring to purchase this standard work. Although the edition extended to a thousand copies (all of which were privately subscribed for), some 250 were unfortunately lost by shipwreck, on their way to the colony, and this will account, in some measure, for the scarcity of the book and the eager demand for it.

Proposed new Zoological Work.—A recent number of the 'Ornithologische Monatsberichte' (1895, p. 196) contains

an announcement that the German Zoological Society has in contemplation a very important work, which will be entitled 'Das Tierreich. Eine Zusammenstellung und Kennzeichnung der rezenten Tierformen.' The aim of this publication is, if we understand rightly, to give, on an uniform plan, descriptions of all the known species of the animal kingdom, together with their distribution and most important synonymy.

Prof. F. E. Schultze, of Berlin, is the general editor of this work, and will be assisted by specialists in the different branches of zoology. Dr. Anton Reichenow has undertaken the section of Birds, in which he has already secured the assistance of Mr. E. Hartert, of Tring, Graf von Berlepsch, Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, and Mr. Ogilvie Grant. Some of the parts relating to the Birds are stated to be already in preparation.



Movements of Naturalists.—Mr. W. L. Sclater left England on Feb. 29th to take up his appointment as Curator of the South African Museum, Capetown. Mr. Sclater will devote his attention, for the present, principally to the Mammals of South Africa, a good Handbook of the Birds (by Sharpe and Layard) being already in existence, but will not neglect to register any additions to the ornithology of Cape-land. From Nyasaland we learn that Mr. Moore has lately passed through on his way to Lake Tanganyika, whither he proceeds under the auspices of the Royal Society to investigate the fauna of the Lake. Mr. Alexander Whyte is at his headquarters at Zomba, and has just forwarded some more collections, which are shortly expected to arrive in England. Sir Henry Johnston, after his victorious campaign against Mlosi, will come to England for a short visit, upon considerations of health. Mr. John S. Gardiner has just left England as naturalist to Prof. Sollas's expedition for the investigation of the Pacific coral-reefs, and will, no doubt, improve our knowledge of the scanty fauna of the Ellice Islands. Mr. Arnold Pike has deserted Spitsbergen for the present, and has started for

Ladakh, intent upon some mysterious expedition into Central Asia. Col. Irby is paying a flying visit to his old quarters in Southern Spain, and will possibly cross to Marocco. Mr. E. C. Taylor has left Egypt and is shortly returning to England. He has, as we anticipated, succeeded in making some interesting additions to the Egyptian avifauna.

XXVI.—*Obituary.*

COLONEL HENRY MAURICE DRUMMOND-HAY.—We have to regret the removal, at a ripe old age, of the first President of the British Ornithologists' Union, one of the original twenty who in the year 1858 founded 'The Ibis,' and of whom, after an interval of 38 years, eleven still remain among us.

Henry Maurice Drummond, youngest son of Vice-Admiral Sir Adam Drummond, K.C.B., and Lady Charlotte, daughter of the 4th Duke of Athole, was born 7th Jan., 1814, at Megginch Castle, Co. Fife, the ancestral seat of the family, members of which, for several generations after the Union, had represented Fife in Parliament. From his childhood he was an enthusiastic field-naturalist, and when on leaving school he was sent abroad to study modern languages, in several of which he was a proficient, he spent much time in the workshop of M. Linder, at that time the best authority on the ornithology of Switzerland and the Alps. Here he practised taxidermy, which to the day of his death was the favourite resource of his leisure hours, and few could so successfully mount a bird in a natural and life-like attitude, for few were so familiar with the action of the bird in life. In June 1832 Drummond-Hay received his commission in the 42nd Royal Highlanders (the Black Watch), in which regiment he served for twenty years, at Malta, Corfu, Bermuda, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. During all this time he was unwearied in studying the ornithology and ichthyology of his different stations and of their neighbouring countries, and lost no opportunity of making excursions into districts which were at that time untouched by the naturalist. He became a